

EXHIBIT 15
DATE Feb 7, 2011
HB 316

**CARTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PO BOX 315 *** 214 PARK STREET
EKALAKA, MONTANA 59324**

PHONE (406) 775-8749

FAX (406) 775-8750

EMAIL cccrcc@midrivers.com

31 January 2011

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

FROM: Carter County Commissioners
PO Box 315
Ekalaka, MT 59324

RE: HB 316

Please let it be known that we, the Board of Carter County Commissioners oppose the passage of HB 316. This bill generally proposes to skim off 10% of money sources from county revenues and re-directs those dollars to the state general fund. Carter County simply cannot take another hit from the legislature. Our revenues are very important to us. Carter County has been working diligently to direct our revenues to the improvement of county roads. We continue to build and improve the county roads. Many have not had maintenance for over 50 years. The Legislator's efforts to remove revenues from the counties is simply not acceptable. Please vote NO on HB 316.

James Courtney
Bill Locking
Steve Roseng

MACOleg

From: Keith Holmlund [k.holmlund@co.custer.mt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:24 PM
To: MACOleg
Cc: REP. DUANE ANKNEY (goodwind.duane@gmail.com); REP. LEE RANDALL (leerandall_2003@hotmail.com); REP. TOM BERRY (tom@tomberymt.com)
Subject: FW: H.B. 316

From: Keith Holmlund
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:59 PM
To: REP. BILL MC CHESNEY (macwilley66@msn.com)
Subject: H.B. 316

Bill,
As County Commissioners of Custer County we are very concerned about the financial hardship H.B. 316 would cause Custer County and all counties that rely heavily on statutory appropriations. Historically funds have been difficult to come by in Custer County, and with all the unfunded mandates we have, it is getting more difficult to survive.

If this bill is allowed to pass, Custer Co. could **lose \$17,741.45**. During fiscal year 2009/2010 Custer County received **\$177,714.47** in statutory appropriations that this bill would affect. Of this; \$5872.00 was from oil and gas production tax, \$160,199.00 was from liquor tax, \$9521.47 was from mineral lease, \$150.00 was from live card table fees, and \$ 1975.00 was from video gaming. **Passing this bill would cause an extreme hardship on funding necessary and vital programs for our county residents.**

As Custer County Commissioners we urge you to vote "**NO**" on H.B. 316.

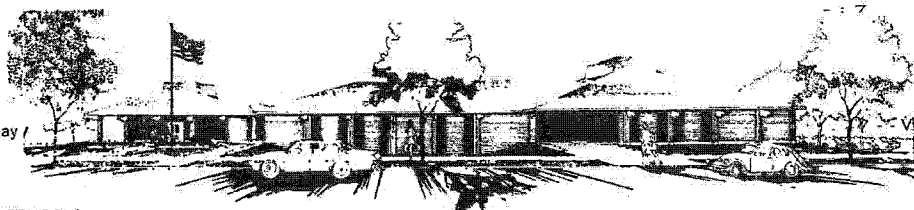
Thank You for your consideration,
Jack Nesbit, chairman
Vicki Hamilton, commissioner
Keith Holmlund, commissioner

COMMISSIONERS
Box 846 - Phone 778-7107
Donald Rieger, Chairperson, Ismay
Deb Ranum, Baker
William L. Randash, Baker

CLERK & RECORDER/SUPT OF SCHOOLS
Brenda J. Wood
Box 846 - Phone 778-7106

COUNTY ATTORNEY
Albert R. (Rich) Batterman
Box 1075 - Phone 778-3006

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Nicole Brown
Box 846 - Phone 778-7128



FALLON COUNTY

BAKER, MONTANA 59313

CLERK OF COURT
Jeraldine Newell
Box 1521 Phone 778-7114

SHERIFF/CORONER
Tim Barkley
Box 899 - Phone 778-2879

TREASURER/ASSESSOR
Barbara E. Ketterling
Box 787 - Phone 778-7109

January 31, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: HB 316

The Commissioner's of Fallon County would like it to be known they are in opposition to HB316 due to the impact it would make on our Rural County as well as all other Counties in this great State of Montana.

The State of Montana already collects a greater portion of most of the funds listed in HB316, and to take yet another slice of the funds will strip Fallon County and its taxpayers of much needed funds to provide basic and pertinent services that could not otherwise be provided and may quite possibly be discontinued.

Fallon County is a productive oil and gas County that lives within their means and is not abundantly dependent upon loans which can otherwise be used for other, less fortunate Counties. On the other hand Fallon County is not always able to receive grants because of our oil and gas industry base. The State of Montana currently pulls nearly half of our County's Oil and Gas Revenues off the top before distribution takes place.

Our oil and gas funds are used to help fund:

The maintenance of our Hospital and Nursing Home, a much needed facility considering the nearest major Hospital facility is 225 miles to Billings, MT; Rapid City, SD or Bismarck, ND. We now have four doctors providing services to our residents of the Community. The nearest Nursing Home is 45 miles East in Bowman, ND; 45 miles North in Wibaux or 45 miles South in Ekalaka and it is very important to the families of those residents that they are able to stay in Baker.

The maintenance of our roads which are heavily impacted by the oilfield, pipelines and daily use of the taxpayers for everyday, agriculture and school route purposes. Fallon County is also always searching for surfacing for our roads which is almost depleted. Over the past 6 years Fallon County has been obtaining easements from taxpayers and has recently taken over several of the main thoroughfares of the oilfield. This has decreased Fallon County's liabilities but with this also brings the extra costs of road maintenance which include, surfacing, dust control, snow removal, mowing and this in turn also brings extra cost for personnel and the possibility of adding more individuals to our work force. This also brings around the cost of equipment to maintain and upgrade the roads in Fallon County.

The maintenance/replacement of our bridges which are heavily impacted in the same manner as our roads. Fallon County has 50+ bridges, of which most are in moderate to very poor condition. Fallon

County has been replacing a few each budget year, as budget allows and has also been placing funding in a Capital Projects fund to allow for the replacement of these bridges.

The maintenance of our two Retirement Complex's of which one is several years old and is in need of upgrades for energy efficiency reasons as well as regular upgrades that are needed as in any business.

The maintenance of our County Courthouse for normal maintenance, energy efficiency, keeping up with codes, installation of an elevator and removal of blown in insulation due to allergens contents and also to increase the insulation for energy purposes, removal of windows to replace with more energy efficient windows, all very costly upgrades.

The Construction of Grandstands for our Fairgrounds as the grandstands that were in place was built in 1925 and was near condemnation status. There are also several other structures at the Fairgrounds that are always needing upgrades and repairs.

Fallon County needs to be allowed to keep the funding it receives now from beer, wine and license tax on liquor so we are able to provide alcohol, chemical dependency treatment and rehabilitation services to our residents (locally).

Fallon County has set up several Capital Projects Accounts over the years and sets aside funding, using our Oil & Gas Funds and Federal Mineral Royalty Funds, for improvements, construction and equipment purchases. Some of the projects this will be used for are as follows:

Drainage Project-As soon as we are allowed, our plan as Commissioner's has been to clean up our creek channel through the City of Baker by way of using precast concrete forms that can be easily cleaned with equipment in hopes of keeping the channel debris free and the mosquito population at a bare minimum.

Airport Equipment-Fallon County has funding set aside for the purchase of Airport equipment such as snow removal equipment, mowers, etc.

North Baker Water Sewer-Fallon County has funding set aside to aide with the North Baker Water Sewer project. The District received several grants but was still short funding and Fallon County was able to assist for the betterment of the businesses and homes in that area.

Wind Farm-Fallon County has been setting funding aside for installation of a Wind Farm. MDU has already placed 20 wind towers in Fallon County but Fallon County is optimistic to be able to someday have their own.

Green Energy-Fallon County has been setting funding aside for the purpose of migrating toward Green Energy for County facilities.

Weed Department Equipment-Fallon County has been setting funding aside to aide in purchases of Weed Spray trucks, mules and upgrades to their building.

Hospital Equipment/Maintenance-Fallon County has been setting funding aside in aide of purchasing updated medical equipment to keep our Hospital technology as current as possible. Fallon County is also aiding in updating showers to handicapped status, relocating the Pink Ladies Volunteer Gift Shop, relocating the Emergency Room, providing a room for families of patients, updating the fire alarm/sprinkler systems, relocated and constructed a new dietary due to issues in the previous location, repairs to the previous dietary area (floors heaving, water issues), this area will house the Physical Therapy Department as their current location is too small and not private enough for patient care.

Museum-Fallon County has been setting funding aside due to the condition of our original Museum building; extensive work needs to be done to keep the two story building in prime condition or risk losing the building all together.

Ambulance-Fallon County has been setting funding aside to aide in the purchase of a new Ambulance when the time arises.

Solid Waste-Fallon County has been setting funding aside to aide in the purchase of a Baler and Baler Building for our Landfill. At current time Fallon County needs to expand our Landfill and is doing so on Fallon County property and will be moving our buildings, etc from the land it is currently located on as the land is currently not Fallon County land.

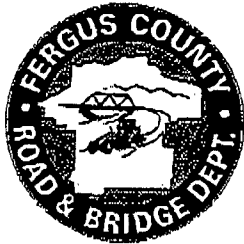
Port Authority-Fallon County aided in forming the Port Authority and allows them the total mills by law. The Port Authority constructed their first Apartment Complex aiding in the housing shortage we have in Fallon County.

Economic Development-Fallon County assists, jointly with other Counties with funding for the Eastern Montana Economic Development Corporation. The EMEDC assisted in obtaining a large grant for the North Baker Water Sewer District as named above.

So, as you can see Fallon County does not squander their funds and does the best it can to maintain the facilities it has and looks to the future for the needs of the Community and our Taxpayers. We would respectfully urge a DO NOT PASS on HB316.

Respectfully,
Fallon County Commission

Donald Rieger, Chairman
Deb Ranum, Vice-Chair
William L. Randash, Member



205 ARMORY ROAD

PO BOX 878

LEWISTOWN, MT 59457

PHONE 406-535-5006

FAX 406-535-8177

February 1, 2011

Harold Blattie
Helena, MT 49604

HB 316

Dear Mr. Blattie

We would like to go on record as opposing HB 316. Our fuel costs continue to rise each year and we need the total amount that we have budgeted now to continue with the snow removal, graveling, maintenance, bridge repairs, and cattle guard & culvert installments.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

John C. Anderson
Supervisor, Road and Bridge Departments

cc: file

January 31, 2011

L. Harold Blattie
Executive Director
NACO
2715 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59602

Harold,

The Fergus County Commissioners are sending you our letter opposing HB 316. Currently the ten percent reduction would impact our county approximately \$22,000 of which \$13,000 will come out of the road and bridge department. With rising fuel costs this equates to about 4400 gallons of diesel. This is nearly one month's fuel usage for the Fergus County road department.

If PILT is included, the impact to Fergus County will be about \$130,000.

Your effort in defeating this bill will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Carl Seilstad, Chairman
Fergus County Commissioners
712 W Main St.
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-5119

MACOleg

From: Leonard Wortman [lwortman@jeffco.mt.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 2:31 PM
To: alangail38; murphter5; Patty O' Neill
Cc: MACOleg; Bonnie Ramey
Subject: H.B. 316

Alan and Terry:

While I understand the importance of increasing revenue for the State general fund, please don't do it on the backs of the Counties. H.B. 316 has the potential to cost the taxpayers of Jefferson County tens of thousands of dollars. This bill has all the earmarks of an unfunded mandate. Nothing in this bill reduces anything that the County is now required to do, but it could substantially reduce our revenue, to benefit the State general fund.

If the goal is to reduce taxes, H.B. 316 will not accomplish that goal. The Legislature may be able to say they reduced the state tax a very small amount, but the lost revenue at the County level would need to be made up somehow. Jefferson County has already lost a huge amount of income because of our mines being shut down. Please do what you can to stop H.B. 316. It's not good for Jefferson County and it's not good for any other County in Montana.

Thanks for your help.

Leonard Wortman
Jefferson County Commission Chair

MACOleg

From: Lake County Commissioners [lakecommissioners@lakemt.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:46 AM
To: MACOleg
Subject: Opposition to HB 316 & HB 375

Shantil we e-mailed the following to Reps. Taylor, Salomon and Read today:

Lake County is troubled with HB 316 and HB 375. In the current economic times it is difficult to accept any reductions in revenue. Efforts to balance the State budget should never be borne through reductions in statutory appropriations to counties. Counties are the major service providers to the public. We are already being asked to provide more for less. What we really need is additional revenue to keep pace with the increased cost of providing services.

We strongly urge you to oppose efforts to reduce revenues from statutory appropriations to counties contained within both HB 316 and HB 375.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William D. Barron, Chairman

Paddy Trusler, Member

Ann Brower, Member

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LINCOLN COUNTY

STATE OF MONTANA

ANTHONY J. BERGET, Commissioner
DISTRICT NO. 1, LIBBY

JOHN C. KONZEN, Commissioner
DISTRICT NO. 2, TROY

MARIANNE B. ROOSE, Commissioner
DISTRICT NO. 3, EUREKA

TAMMY D. LAUER
CLERK OF THE BOARD AND COUNTY RECORDER

February 3, 2011

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee

Re: HB 316

Dear Committee Members:

HB 316, if passed, will have a substantial impact on all local governments. Many statutory appropriations for Counties, Cities, and other local governments, will be reduced by up to 10%.

This reduction, in an effort to balance the State's budget, will require us to reduce many necessary services to our residents. Lincoln County, as well as most other local governments, are already facing reductions in revenue they receive due to the deteriorating economy, high unemployment, and failing businesses.

As Commissioners, we understand the difficulties you are faced with trying to balance the State's budget. We have to do that every year with our own budgets and dwindling revenues. But to face further permanent reductions from the Legislature that would take revenue away from Counties and other local governments and re-directing them to the State is inequitable and unjust.

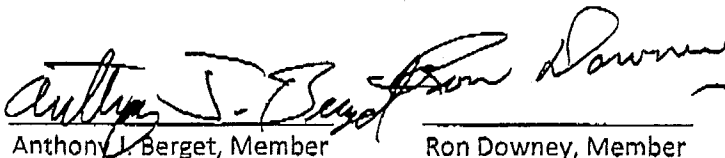
One particular revenue reduction in this bill that will hit Lincoln County particularly hard is the metal mines license tax. This tax was created to help offset costs to local governments caused by the impacts of hard rock mines. These impacts are local and real. Reducing the taxes to the local governments where the impacts are felt is disproportionate legislation that should not occur.

We strongly urge you to vote against passage of HB 316 in its entirety.

Sincerely,



Marianne B. Roose, Chairman



Anthony J. Berget, Member

Ron Downey, Member

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LINCOLN COUNTY

STATE OF MONTANA

ANTHONY J. BERGET, Commissioner
DISTRICT NO. 1, LIBBY

JOHN C. KONZEN, Commissioner
DISTRICT NO. 2, TROY

MARIANNE B. ROOSE, Commissioner
DISTRICT NO. 3, EUREKA

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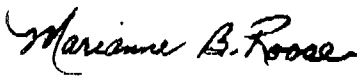
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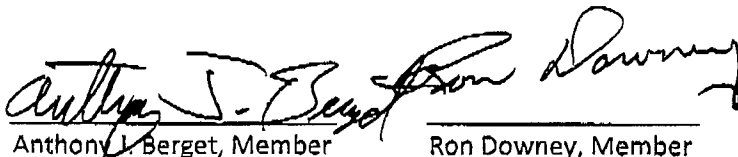
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We strongly urge you to vote against passage of HB 316 in its entirety.

Sincerely,



Marianne B. Roose, Chairman



Anthony J. Berget, Member

Ron Downey, Member



McCone County

Circle, Montana 59215

COMMISSIONERS
Box 199
485-3500
485-2689 (Fax)

February 1, 2011

CLERK & RECORDER
Box 199
485-3505
485-2689 (Fax)

Representative Bill Harris
Representative Lee Randall
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

CLERK OF THE COURT
Box 199
485-3410
485-3436 (Fax)

COUNTY ATTORNEY
Box 58
485-3530
485-2306 (Fax)

Dear Representatives Harris and Randall:

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Box 192
485-3548
485-2689 (Fax)

McCone County is gravely concerned about the ramifications of HB 316. We urge you to vote in opposition to this bill. Our major disagreement with this bill is that the money that is re-directed to the state general fund would be a permanent loss to county revenue. We regard this move as a direct blow to county taxpayers and to county services provided to them.

SHERIFF
Box 201
485-3405
485-3464 (Fax)

TREASURER/
SUP. OF SCHOOLS
Box 180
485-3590
485-2689 (Fax)

McCone County received \$25,978 in 2009, \$12,082 in 2010 and estimate that \$8,500 will be received in 2011 in Oil and Gas Production Tax. We would lose approximately \$850 for this year. This may not sound like much, however, we have been saving these funds for repair, remodel and/or replacement of county building infrastructure. In particular, McCone County needs these funds to provide for handicap access throughout our courthouse. Any cut in this revenue to McCone County puts that goal further down the road.

Taxes on Liquor, Beer, and Wine are used to provide alcohol and chemical dependency treatments and rehabilitation services. McCone County received \$20,983 in FY 2009, \$10,152 in FY 2010, and estimates around \$10,000 in FY 2011. These funds are used to contract with District II Drug and Alcohol, whose counselor comes to Circle out of Glendive. The county has no other sources of revenue to fund this program; therefore, services would have to be reduced.

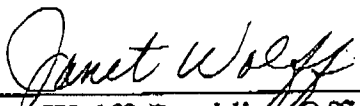
McCone County receives very little in Federal Mineral Leasing funds—around \$300 per year, but what we do receive, is saved from year to year for the purpose of meeting emergencies, such as overtime for our road departments or breakdowns that require an expenditure that hadn't been budgeted for.

Video Gaming Permit fees amounted to \$775 and Drivers License fees retained by the county amounted to \$133 for McCone County this year. This isn't much but even a 10% loss in this revenue impacts our small county. One mill brings in only \$7,288, and our tax base is agriculture. We use every penny that we receive in revenue.

Please vote to oppose HB 316.

Sincerely,

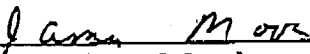
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
McCONE COUNTY**



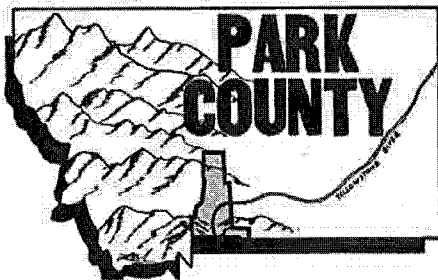
Janet Wolff, Presiding Officer



Connie Eissinger, Member



James Moos, Member



PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

414 E. Callender, Livingston, MT 59047 • Ph. 406-222-4106, Fax 406-222-4160
www.parkcounty.org • Email: commissioners@parkcounty.org

January 31, 2011

Chair and Committee Members

Park County rises in opposition against H.B. 316. This proposal will have a devastating impact on the budget of Park County. When the legislature changed the method transferring funds the Counties collect, the legislature and the Counties agreed on a split. This legislature must not betray the trust to counties.

Sincerely

Randy Taylor R.S.

Randy Taylor, R.S.
County Commissioner

James Durgan

James Durgan
County Commissioner

Marty Malone

Marty Malone
County Commissioner

Attn: Shantil



E-MAILED

1-31-11

(rm)

Sheridan County Commissioners

100 W. Laurel Ave.

Plentywood, MT 59254

Tel: (406) 765-1660 Fax: (406) 765-2602

Gerald Kohler

Robert Nikolaisen

William "Bill" Nyby

February 3, 2011

To: House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning

Subject: HB 316

Chairman McNutt and Committee Members;

We are going to focus our information on the oil and gas production tax revenue that Sheridan County receives. We are sure that the other revenue streams included in this bill will impact the counties in a similar way in our providing of services to the people of Montana.

Sheridan County strongly opposes House Bill 316. This bill, if passed would increase our constituent's property taxes to cover the shortfall in revenue attributed to the production taxes from oil and gas production within the county.

In FY2010, the non-tax revenue estimate for the county budget was \$3,312,968.00 of which \$1,121,250.00, 34.45%, was from oil and gas revenue. In FY2011, the non-tax revenue estimate for the county budget was \$3,363,490.00 of which \$1,718,350.00, 51.08%, was from oil and gas revenue. These figures represent just the major funds—general, road, bridge, weed, fair, airport, district court, library, senior citizens, extension and law enforcement—of the county budget. This bill would also affect revenues in the special districts—fire, cemetery, hospital and school—of the county.

The first 2 quarter oil and gas checks for FY2011 totaled \$2,444,944.00 which would equate to an annual amount of \$4,889,888.00. Sheridan County's share of those first two quarter checks represented 47.99% of the total amount of taxes collected. Of Sheridan County's share of this revenue, county government receives 46.76% and the school districts receive 53.24%. The State of Montana received 52.01% or \$2,649,750.00 of the total amount of taxes collected for those same two quarters. A 10% reduction would represent a revenue loss of \$488,988.80 to Sheridan County.

A mill in Sheridan County raises \$10,419.33. To provide the same government services that are currently being provided, the county would have to levy an additional 46.93 mills to recover the shortfall. This would not be a popular decision and would definitely cause much concern with the taxpayers of the county.

This increase in mills due to this loss of non-tax revenue poses another problem for counties. The counties in Montana are bound by a statutory limit of property taxes that can be raised in a given fiscal year. If counties are at or close to their statutory limit with the current revenue they receive from oil and gas revenue, they will be forced to reduce or cut government services to the people because they are limited to the amount of property taxes they may collect. I think we all can agree that raising taxes and cutting services are very unpopular decisions.

Local government officials are closest to the people and if this proposal is allowed to play out, we will be receiving many telephone calls and visits from our constituents asking why we allowed this to happen. That is why we are asking you to oppose this bill and recommend a "do not pass" on HB316.

Following is a breakdown of some of the departments impacted and their loss. These figures are for FY2011:

COUNTY FUNDS & SPECIAL DISTRICTS

GENERAL FUND	91,460.47
ROAD FUND	38,184.74
BRIDGE FUND	26,523.54
WEED FUND	3,429.77
COUNTY FAIR FUND	4,573.02
CITY/COUNTY AIRPORT FUND	571.63
DISTRICT COURT FUND	3,429.77
LIBRARY FUND	4,573.02
SENIOR CITIZENS FUND	4,573.02
EXTENSION SERVICE FUND	4,001.39
PUBLIC SAFETY FUND	27,438.14
MEDICINE LAKE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	3,772.74
REDSTONE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	342.98
OUTLOOK RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	1,486.23
WESTBY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	2,972.47
PLENTYWOOD RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	4,573.02
PLENTYWOOD CEMETERY DISTRICT	1,143.26
OUTLOOK CEMETERY DISTRICT	457.30
HOSPITAL DISTRICT	5,144.65
TOTAL:	\$228,651.16

COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TRANSPORTATION & RETIREMENT FUNDS

ELEM/HS TRANSPORTATION	10,855.55
HS RETIREMENT	16,576.72
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS	232,905.37
TOTAL:	\$260,337.64

Again, we are asking you to please consider a "do not pass" on HB316 and we thank you for your time.

Sheridan County Commissioners

s/s _____
Robert Nikolaisen, Chairman

s/s _____
William "Bill" Nyby, Member

s/s _____
Gerald Kohler, Member

MACOleg

From: Patti [wibauxco@midrivers.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 5:10 PM
To: MACOleg
Subject: Fw: HB 316 Revised letter

Legislators,

Taking 10% of the oil & gas dollars would reduce our revenue by approximately *\$200,000*. Our nursing home subsidy would have to be eliminated causing a strong possibility of closure and unemployment of 55 people. The County would need to raise 90 mills alone to keep the nursing home running.

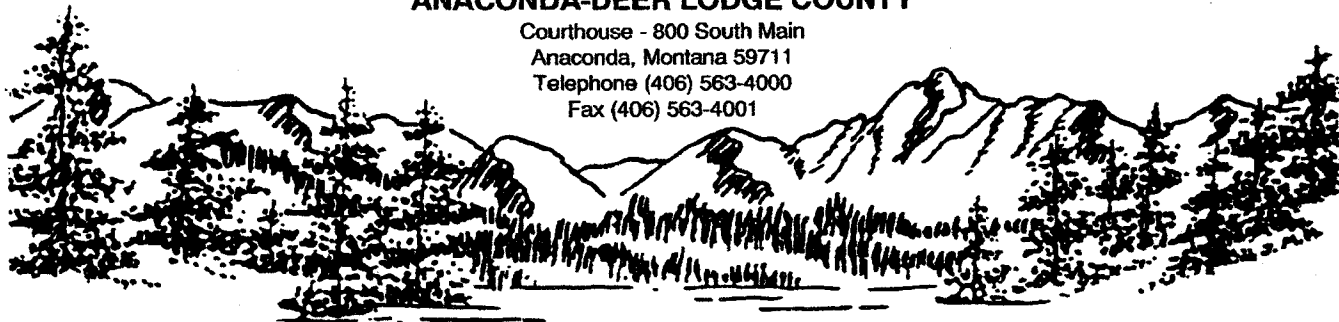
Our ability to maintain roads would be greatly diminished. Heavy oil field traffic and oversized loads are constantly moving through our county requiring extra maintenance on roads and bridges. One bridge that we need to replace (due to heavy oil field traffic) in Wibaux County will cost us about \$500,000.

This amount would greatly burden our 890 residents of Wibaux since about 65% are on fixed incomes.

Wibaux County Commissioners
Sandy Nelson
Gilbert Quade
Leif Bakken

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY

Courthouse - 800 South Main
Anaconda, Montana 59711
Telephone (406) 563-4000
Fax (406) 563-4001



February 1, 2011

Senator Gene Vuckovich
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Representative Kathy Swanson
Representative Cindy Hiner
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: HB 316 & HB 375 – 10% Reduction to Statutory County Revenues

Dear Gene Senator Kathy Vuckovich, Rep. Cindy Swanson and Rep. Hiner:

I am writing to urge you to carefully consider the deleterious effect HB 316 will have on Anaconda-Deer Lodge County revenues and the services the County provides to your constituents. The Montana Association of Counties (MACO) estimates that the passage of this bill would result in a permanent reduction of some \$15 million in revenue to Montana counties.

One of the programs affected include those used to provide alcohol and chemical dependency treatment programs. A 10% reduction in these funds will impact the number of residents that can be served by the County's designated chemical dependency treatment provider, Western Montana Mental Health Center.

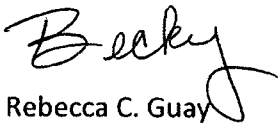
Another cut would be felt directly in the County's General Fund as the amount of drivers license fees retained by the Treasurer are reduced by 10%, which could translate into a reduction in the level of services ADLC residents are accustomed to receiving from the Treasurer's Office.

On a final note, please resist the temptation to help maintain an ample fund balance in the State's General Fund on the backs of local governments. Counties and cities rely on the statutory appropriations passed by prior legislatures. These appropriations are like a handshake between State and local governments, that help all of us provide the best services possible to all of our constituents.

Senator Vuckovich, Rep. Swanson and Rep. Hiner
February 1, 2011
Page 2

Thanks to each of you for working so hard in this challenging legislative environment. We here at home really do appreciate all of your efforts. Please contact me at 563-4000, 560-1168 (cell) or by email at ceo@anacondadeerlodge.mt.gov if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becky", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Rebecca C. Guay
Chief Executive

cc: Commissioners
Montana Association of Counties

MACOleg

From: Commissioners [commissioners@co.carbon.mt.us]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 1:00 PM
To: dblyton@aol.com; Harold Blattie; Sheryl Wood; MACOleg
Cc: 'Commissioners'
Subject: Oppose HB 316
Attachments: SKMBT_42311020103540.pdf

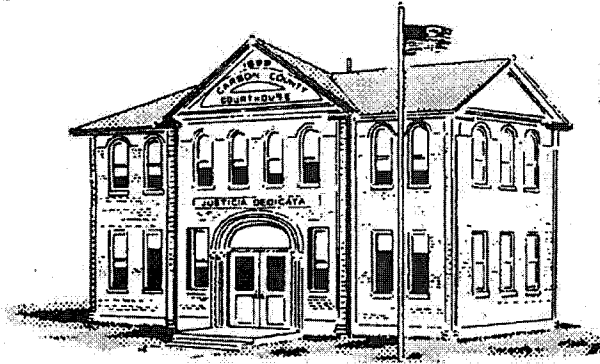
Representative Blyton,

Joann,

Attached is a letter signed by the Carbon County Commissioners in **opposition to HB 316**.

Please support the Montana Association of Counties position in regards to HB 316 or any other bill that would divert traditional county funds to the State General fund

John E. Prinkki
Carbon County Commissioner
PO Box 887
Red Lodge, Montana



BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF CARBON • STATE OF MONTANA

Post Office Box 887
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Phone: (406) 446-1595
Fax: (406) 446-2640

January 31, 2011

To: Members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning and the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee

From: Carbon County Commissioners

Subject: **Opposition to HB 316**

Dear members of the Committee,

The Carbon County Commissioners write this letter in **opposition to HB 316**.

Carbon County would suffer greatly with the reduction in our receipt of share of revenue sources affected by HB 316. Carbon County received the following amounts in 2010.

15-36-331 Oil and Gas Production Tax; \$731,734 10% reduction - \$73,173.00

These funds are used to fund roads, education, law enforcement and other county functions.

23-5-306 Live Card Game Table Permit fees: \$1150.00 10% reduction - \$115.00

These funds are placed in the general fund that is affected by gambling related issues.

23-5-612 Video Gaming Permit fees: \$4175.00 10% reduction - \$417.50

These funds are placed in the general fund that is affected by gambling related issues.

Carbon County uses these funds to provide services directly related to affects from the related industries from which they are provided.

Please avoid the temptation to balance the State of Montana budget by reducing the traditional share of local government revenue that is used to provide services at the grass roots level.

Sincerely,

Carbon County Commissioners

Doug Tucker
Doug Tucker, Chairman

John E. Prinkki
John E. Prinkki

John L. Grewell
John L. Grewell